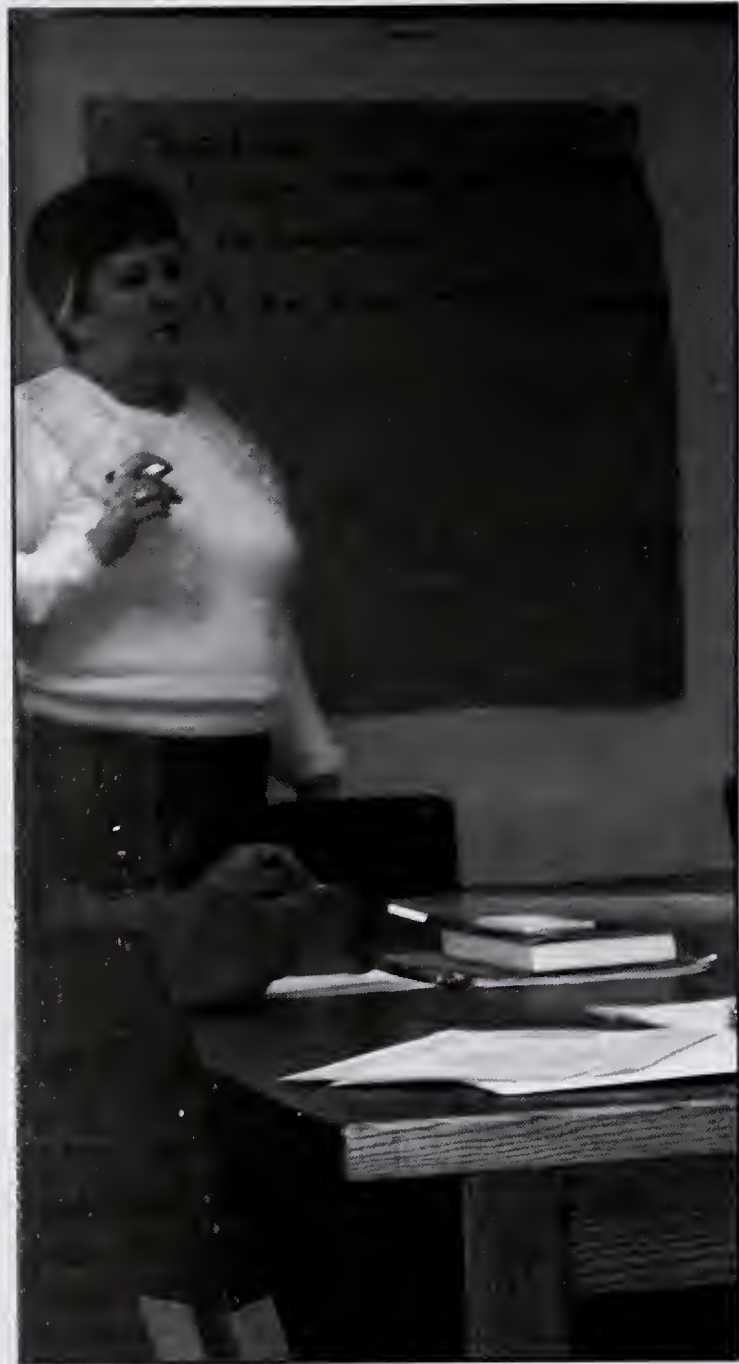


## “Third Thursday at Three” Provides Opportunities

By Mike Koscielny, Staff Writer



Donna Brody outlines methods of employment discovery. (Photos courtesy of Koscielny)

“Where will you be on the third Thursday at three?” Despite alliterating more than a *Suessical* rhyme, it is what Donna Brody, the Director of Career Development, wants to know. The Career Development Center is sponsoring a workshop series for interested students not enrolled in the Business Department’s Career Planning class. It is meant to prepare SJC students for their eventual job search following graduation.

“When I began my position as Director of Career Development last July, I decided one of my goals would be to meet and assist as many seniors as possible prior to their graduation to get them ready for their next steps, either a job or graduate school,” Brody said. “I teach two sections of Career Planning, a course that is required of all Business Administration and Accounting majors, and I wanted to find a way to get that same information to non-business majors who are not taking the class.”

The first seminar was specifically about resume and cover letter writing. With seven students in attendance, there was a lot of one-on-one help to better

the attending students’ endeavors. The second seminar, which took place February 15, was about the proper ways to conduct a job search.

“I am wanting to move to Chicago and I am also qualified to work in health care as a nurse’s aid,” freshman Psychology major Michael Moore said.

“I am trying to find a good summer job that I actually enjoy.”  
~Jasmine Carpenter

Some students are looking for more short-term employment as well.

“I am trying to find a good summer job that I actually enjoy,” freshman Criminal Justice major Jasmine Carpenter said.

The topics covered within the class curriculum are vital to success after college and covered in the seminars. Topics like resume and cover letter writing, building a portfolio, dressing for interviews, answering interview questions, job searching, evaluating job offers, etc. are all covered.



The next seminar will be held on the third Thursday of March at three o’clock (hence the name “third Thursday at three”). Dane LaGrange, the director of the Center for Indiana Partnerships, which is part of the Career Development Center, will be presenting the third workshop. The topic for that day is setting up an internship for the fall semester of 2007.

“[LaGrange] has placed a large number of students with employers since the academic year began, and he has a set process which includes a packet of paperwork for students who want to intern,” Brody said. “He will explain how it works at his session.”

Another important upcoming event sponsored by the Career Development Center is the annual CareerFest, scheduled for Monday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Halleck Student Center Ballroom.

Sixty different employers from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio will set up booths in attempts to provide job opportunities for those interested in their area of study and geographic location.

Visit <http://www.saintjoe.edu/careers/students/> for helpful information on the 2007 SJC CareerFest, preparing your resume, preparing cover letters, conducting your internship search, conducting your job search, finding a career mentor, and interviewing tips.

## SJC Community Saves Lives, One Unit at a Time

By Jennifer Ruff, Staff Writer

To some, giving blood seems too easy to make a difference to anyone, but not to the community members of SJC.

Several students, faculty, and staff recently came to the Ballroom in the Halleck Student Center and gave one or two units of their blood to save the life of another.

An important fact to note is that one unit of blood can save up to three lives.

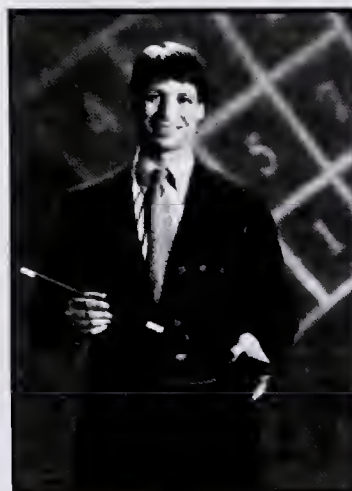
However, it is also a fact that one out of every ten people entering a hospital are in need of blood, and three gallons of blood only lasts for about one minute in the hospitals of America.

Although it was an exhausting experience for some, the benefits of blood donation were well worth being tired.

“The blood drive took a lot out of me,” said sophomore Criminal Justice major Jennifer Hensley, “but it’s worth it.”

So, I encourage all those who did not give blood this time around to give it a try sometime over the summer or next semester here at Saint Joseph’s College.

Remember, it may seem that blood is easy to give away and won’t make a big difference, but for those who receive your gift of life, you made all the difference in the world.



Mathemagician Art Benjamin will perform “mental math” in the Core Auditorium on March 12 at 7 p.m. CST. His presentation is appropriate for all: especially math and education majors. Dr. Benjamin has appeared on many television and radio programs, including: The Today Show, CNN and National Public Radio. He has been profiled in The New York Times, USA Today and People Magazine. Questions? Email Marge McIlwain [margem@saintjoe.edu](mailto:margem@saintjoe.edu).

## Four-Week Civil War Class

By Rebecca Scherer, Publications and Media Relations Dir.

The Office of Continuing Education and Summer Programs at Saint Joseph’s College is pleased to announce the first installment of a series of special-interest classes offered to community members. The class, entitled “The Civil War in Four Weeks” and taught by Professor Emeritus of History Dr. Phil Posey, will meet from 6-8 p.m. CST on February 20, February 27, March 13, and March 27. Held in Room 102 of the Arts and Science Building, tuition is \$75.00 and the enrollment deadline is February 16.

“The course highlights a conflict that served as a turning point in American History, settling longstanding issues on the nature of the union and

humanity,” said Posey. “The unity it produced paved the way for America’s emergence into the status of world power.”

Sara Solis ’00, Director of Continuing Education and Summer Programs, had Posey in mind to teach the class since “the Civil War class at SJC retired along with Phil. Civil War history is something that interests more than just history enthusiasts,” she said.

“It is my hope that we can get several people from outside the campus community to join in this adventure through time.”

For more information and to enroll, contact Solis in the Office of Continuing Education and Summer Programs at (219) 866-6351.



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# SJC Student Practices “La Pura Vida” While Teaching in Costa Rica

By Katherine Stembel, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Senior Elementary Education major Elizabeth Wissel, of Indianapolis, Indiana recently spent five weeks abroad in Costa Rica, receiving valuable experience and a new, more relaxed outlook on teaching. Her new professional attitude was represented by the Tican philosophy “la pura vida,” (“pure life”), a mentality that focuses on “going with the flow” of life.

She stayed in Atenas, northwest of San Jose, where she lived in the mountainous central valley region with her host mother, a kindergarten teacher, and the woman’s two daughters, ages five and seven. The two girls attended the school, called Colina Azul, where Wissel provided English instruction to third and fourth graders, in classes made up of approximately ten students each. She also taught science in English to third grade, as well as computers and conversation for third and fourth grade students.

From the beginning of Wissel’s academic career at SJC, she had wanted to study abroad. She received the opportunity through a Cultural Immersions program from Indiana University, approved by Saint Joseph’s College, from which she received nine graduate level credits. SJC accommodated the program’s stipulations, and Core Seven’s Latin American focus proved helpful to Wissel’s aspirations to study abroad.

“The Core Program was beneficial [preparation] because you receive different cultural

experiences than what you’re used to,” said Wissel. “You learn about things like globalization, your own worldview and others’ worldviews. The framework of that program leaves it open to create your own experiences in a different environment.”

Although Wissel first encountered several obstacles at Colina Azul due to the absence of a familiar classroom management system, the children adjusted to her teaching style and she was able to implement new, resourceful methods. Wissel created a sticker economy, giving out stickers for good behavior and reclaiming them for bad. Once the children received a certain amount of stickers, they were treated to a special prize.

“The education I received through SJC helped me get the kids where they needed to be so we could function properly together,” she said. “The most significant thing I learned while I was down there was what it’s like to be a second-language learner, even after taking six years of Spanish myself. I’m going to be a lot more understanding than I was before.”

Before the semester ended, the children performed a Christmas pageant in English. Wissel’s third graders sang seasonal songs such as “Frosty the Snowman,” and her fourth graders performed the Biblical story of Christ’s birth. Although few Atenas natives are fluent in English, many of the community members attended the festival.

In her spare time, Wissel



Elizabeth Wissel (back row, far right) with her service-learning group. Wissel spent five weeks abroad in Costa Rica, receiving valuable experience and a new, more relaxed outlook on teaching.

attended Latin dance classes as well as conversational Spanish sessions with one of the local host fathers. Once a week for two hours, she also performed a service-learning project, teaching English to a group of students who did not usually receive practice during school hours.

In addition to teaching, Wissel was also able to travel on the weekends, visiting the peninsular city of Montezuma, viewing rainforest animals such as toucans and sloth in their natural habitat, soaring on twenty-nine

zip lines over eleven waterfalls in one day and even watching a volcano spout lava.

Back at SJC, this semester Wissel holds an internship where she conversely teaches Spanish to kindergarten through fifth grades at St. Augustine Elementary School in Rensselaer. She continues tutoring area Hispanic students through an outreach program sponsored by the College and is now planning a bilingual story time for the Jasper County Public Library.

Thanks to her time spent

teaching abroad, Wissel is able to relate personal experiences to her current classes of children to help them better grasp the material. She now pursues “pura vida” in her academic, professional, and personal lives.

“All of those experiences in Costa Rica are going to be bringing me a new perspective in the future,” she said. “There’s definitely a remnant of the Tican culture in me; I walk a little bit slower now. I let little things go. Things I once saw as obstacles aren’t any more.”

## Thoughts from A-Broad The Price of Education



Elizabeth Genova

Is educational quality dependent on the cost of tuition? In the past, it was truly hard for me to understand how one year at a private institution in the United States can cost over

\$30,000, and even harder for me to comprehend why our government would allow tuitions to soar to unaffordable rates with such limited financial aid offered. Here, even at Saint Joseph’s College, we are told that we pay more for higher quality and lose the quantity of large classrooms so common in state institutions. Is this assumption true?

In Austria, the second most socialized country in Europe, the situation is very different for students. Until two years ago, tuition was free for all students who pass the “Matura” (a national test similar to the SATs or ACTs). That’s right, students just had to buy the bus ticket it costs to get to and from the universities, which is even at a student discount. Also, students could study for an unlimited amount of time. It was not uncommon to find people taking classes for up to ten years, and already well into a career. It had been this way since severe socialist reforms in the 1970s. The idea behind this concept of

free and limitless education was that students represent the future success of Austria, and, therefore, they should not have to work *at all* so they can fully concentrate on their studies (contrary to the United States, where if you are a student, it is virtually impossible to attend college without working!).

However, two years ago, the Austrian student universe was turned upside-down when the government decided it could no longer bear all educational costs. A new student fee of 375 Euros per semester (about \$488) was introduced. Not bad, eh? Wrong. Since then, regular protests have been held by students, and the socialist party has been voted into office with the campaign promise to end student fees. But Austrians are not as used to broken campaign promises as we Americans are. So, when the fees were not eliminated, all hell broke loose for a week with traffic stopping protests—which eventually just turned into a drunken party that slowed traffic.

The compromise the government came to was 60 hours of community service in exchange for the fee each semester, with a value of around 6 Euros per hour. The students are hardly satisfied with their ‘slave wages,’ though.

Well, what exactly do Austrian students pay for?

Average class sizes are anywhere from 50-500 students, and most courses are only lectures once a week with a final exam at the end of the semester. Attendance is optional. The professors, to say the least, are unapproachable, and questions and emails can go weeks without being answered. It’s a quite different style from what students, even at state universities, are used to in the United States. We pay dearly for our education, and we expect high quality in return.

We have the American mindset. Good, hard work should not go unnoticed, and an “A for Effort” is usually in order. In Austria, though, students receive no more guidance than “learn these two huge textbooks by semester’s end. And there may be other material on the test.” Therefore, few attend class regularly, and just cram the last three weeks of every semester.

It hardly seems ideal. I have seen students in Austria devastated after having studied, worked hard, and participated regularly for an entire semester, just to have failed the challenging test at the end for which they were not adequately prepared, and as a result, failed the entire course. A “C” or a “D” is actually quite often desired at the university level because of the overall difficulty of courses.

Which would you prefer: an

almost free education where little is learned throughout the semester and the overall learning environment is strained, or an overly unaffordable educational that sticks with you like glue? Hard to say, I think.

In Austria’s defense, the system claims that Austrian students are more “self-reliant,” and what they learn is dependant upon how often they study on their own throughout the semester. They view American students as being “spoon-fed.” I’ve actually debated this topic with Austrian professors before, trying to explain that we in the United States must work hard the entire semester because of our more interactive classrooms.

I’ve also noticed a trend within Austrian University classes: a great lack of respect for the professors. Some students’ behaviors are similar to those found in middle and high school, with constant background conversations and often rude or degrading comments made

directly at the professor. It would be jaw dropping to see some of these things in the classrooms of SJC. I wonder if this lack of support from professors and lack of

respect from students are based on the fact that this education is virtually given away to any Austrian citizen. Perhaps, because we in the United States pay a significant amount for schooling, we are determined to get our money’s worth rather than pass time.

Overall, I’ve come to the conclusion that you get what you pay for. A \$500 dollar semester would be amazing to find here, but the educational quality that is regarded as first rate in the United States, in the global scene, would not be what it is. Of course, education is also what one makes of it, and it is all about utilizing the tools that are given. I am sure most anyone could adjust to a new style of education with time, but in the United States, we are offered a great deal of opportunities in our universities to learn interactively and regularly. Enjoy this expensive education, because we are getting more out of it than we perhaps realize.





# Houlding Like a Fermata

**Brent J. Houlding** *Opinions Editor*

Welcome back to the greatest column on Earth. My apologies for the music joke, but it was there and I had to. Seriously, I’m running out of ideas for puns on my own name. Any ideas out there? E-mail me at [bhk5502](mailto:bhk5502). Also, I apologize for the overly verbose nature of this article, but my normal writers pulled up lame, literarily speaking, so the entire page fell to me. Shall we begin?

1. We will begin our five topics du jour with Core 6. It’s nearly halfway through the semester, and I’ve made my decision, namely being, I’m bored! Evolution is interesting and all, and yes, it can be reconciled with a belief in God, but I got that somewhere around the second lecture. In all honesty, I’ve yet to get anything out of Core 6 that couldn’t be derived from the first 50 or so pages of Dan Brown’s “Angels and Demons”. Again, I’m not trying to be insulting. I know that the lecturers are knowledgeable and passionate about the topic, and for the first few weeks, that was enough to sustain us. But I don’t believe I’m alone in stating that I’ve hit my limit for evolution talk.

Overall, I’d like to state, in the nicest way possible, my disappointment in science Cores. After my sophomore year, I was pretty excited for the upcoming Cores. China looked to be a hoot (which it was), and better yet, science! My one regret in my two majors and two minors is that biology and chemistry were unable to find themselves a place in my college education. I was hoping to fill that void with my Junior Cores. Instead I got a semester of plodding review from middle school and a semester of one topic being beaten to death like a tragic derby loser. I was looking forward to maybe some organic chemistry, heavy astronomy, dissections, and perhaps some engineering, all jam-packed into two fun-filled semesters. This was my dream for the science Cores. Alas it was not to be so.

2. Ah. Baseball season hath arrived. For a Cubs fan, this is a very bittersweet time of year. To quote a recent ESPN.com article by Gene Wojciechowski, “Cubs followers possess the rare ability to be optimistic and pessimistic at the same time.” Gene hit the nail right on the head. While I am ultimately excited about the Cubs off-season acquisitions (Soriano, Lilly, Marquis), there is still that nagging voice in the back of my head chanting, “99...99...99...” That’s right, I said 99. For those of you who don’t know, the Cubs last won the World Series in good old ’08. Nope, that’s not a prediction; I’m talking 1908. You know, back in the day when the South Siders were still the White Stockings, Teddy was in office, and the Babe was a young lad of 13. That means we’re going on year number 99 without a championship, by far the longest drought in professional sports. Nearly a century of pain for Cubs fans, 19 of them now

spent with this editor bleeding Cubbie Blue. So forgive my mild skepticism, but as Gene’s article said, “That’s what happens when a team nears its second 100-year rebuilding plan.”

Now it’s probably too early for predictions in general, but nevertheless I’m going to try. Mark it down now for October kids, Dodgers over Yankees in five. Expect to also see the Cubs, Cardinals, and Mets in NL postseason, and the White Sox, Twins, and Mariners joining the AL fray.

3. By the time this article hits stands, we’ll be in every Catholic’s most joyous time of year, Lent. In Christianity, Lent marks the period of time leading up to Holy Week, which follows Christ in his arrival to Jerusalem, betrayal, death, and resurrection, celebrated on Easter Sunday. As most of you are probably aware, Catholics in particular hold this time in high regard. It is customary to choose something that one enjoys particularly, such as chocolate, pop, or shopping, and to abstain from that activity for the duration of Lent. Church doctrine goes on to mandate that Catholics are not to eat meat on Fridays during the holiday. This is the one happy time of the year when P.E.T.A. and the church finally get along. However, fish is apparently not meat. Could somebody explain that one to me? No? Ok, just checking.

Now, I am certainly not going to insult anyone’s religion (that’s right folks, I do have limits), but this holiday has always confused me. In my formative years, two of which I spent at a Catholic middle school, I was perplexed as to why we had a variety of foods in school the rest of the week, but the food ladies were unable to make anything other than fish and macaroni & cheese on Fridays. As a born and raised Protestant, the answer bamboozled me even further. I had always been told that Jesus had died for our sins; that he had suffered so that we didn’t have to. I have discovered that this is not the case as far as Catholics are concerned. My more liberal church upbringing had taught me that because of Christ’s sacrifice, we were free to do much more as we pleased, with no apology or atonement necessary as long we acknowledged the aforementioned sacrifice and asked Jesus to be with us forever. Until I learned more about the Catholic faith, the amount of rules and regulations seemed almost fascist to my young mind. Now I know better, but I’m still much more liberal in the faith department, and the level of dietary martyrdom for the sake of Lent still horrifies me from a culinary standpoint, but at least it seems justified to me now. Still, don’t expect any mercy from me these next few Fridays when you’re chewing on a fishstick and I’m chowing on a meat-lover’s calzone washed down with a double cheeseburger peppered with bacon bits just for spite.

4. We’re a mere week away

from March, and that means we’ve nearly arrived at the best month in sports, March Madness. It’s been nearly a full year since we’ve heard phrases like “bracket busters”, “cinderallas” and Dicky V’s “Yeah, ba-by!” I for one am ready to get back into the Big Dance. With any luck we’ll have another George Mason to delight us with upsets aplenty. Without further ado, here are my picks. For the Final Four, I expect to see UNC, the return of Florida, Wisconsin, and the dark horse pick of West Virginia. With impressive wins over UConn and then #2 UCLA, don’t be surprised if the Mountaineers take the tourney by storm. In the end however, look for Florida to repeat as champs 81-72 over Wisconsin. Whatever happens, it’s going to be good year though, so polish off those brackets, circle those 12’s over 5’s, and get ready for the most sports intensive month of your calendar year.

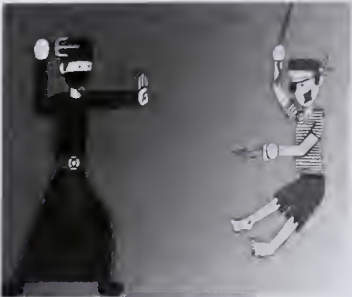
5. Have you ever wondered what human would taste like? Well now you have a chance to find out without all the pesky legal repercussions of cannibalism. Though the website is temporarily out of commission, EatHufu.com sells what it claims to be “human flavored tofu”. The internet has become rampant over the fact that the business may not be legitimate, but real or not, it raises the age-old question (and by age-old I mean I talked about it for a whole period once in my high school chemistry class): What would human taste like?

One might suggest that we could simply eat a monkey and assume that the flavor would be comparable to that of good old *homo sapiens*. However, I don’t like this idea. Have you ever eaten buffalo? Despite their genetic similarities to cows, they taste worlds apart, with buffalo emerging as the king of the meats. My apologies to the Native Americans, but as a people who had been eating predominately seafood for the last five hundred years, I can’t blame my ancestors for snapping up those tasty grazers as soon as possible. Anywho, to humans. This editor believes the answer is two fold. Due to the uniqueness of our anatomy, I think that different parts of human would taste like either chicken or beef, due to the presence of fast-twitch or slow-twitch muscles. For example, distance runners would be closer in taste and consistency to chicken. Recipe ideas include Deep Fried Head Editor Joe Larson, Sports Editor Andrew Costello Nuggets, and Joe King a la king. Conversely, football players might be more beef like. Some ideas: LaVarr Brown Burger, Julius Taylor Ribs, and Chile Torres Chili (also good chilly!). Of course, I’m not supporting any sort of murder or cannibalism, but if you just happen to accidentally eat human, do us all a favor, and pass that information along, eh? And for the record, during Lent, can we eat human on Fridays?

# Did You Hear About CelebrityX?

**By George White,** *Guest Columnist*

I love writing these last minute columns, but I can never think of anything to write about. Consequently, I tend to ask for topic ideas from friends. The suggestions I get are all over the map. Here are a few of them: “Write about politics.” “How about why Hilary is the lesser of two evils compared to Barack Obama?” “Write about people going to college just so they can get more money in later jobs.” “Write about how Ninjas are better than Pirates.” “Write about



*Pirate vs. Ninja. An age-old debate that time does not permit to be discussed here. (image courtesy of <http://chat.carleton.ca/~apurpura/comix/Posted/pirate%20vs%20ninja%202.jpg>)*

how Jason Keller and George White are the sexiest men on campus.”

Now, some of these topics are completely stupid (I mean, everyone knows Pirates are better), but sometimes a topic clicks with me and I can run with it. Three people suggested various Hollywood topics to me. These ranged from Britney Spears’ recent head shaving to why Vince Vaughn was responsible for Brad Pitt and Jennifer Anniston’s divorce. After quickly dismissing these things as topics, it struck me how sad it was that Hollywood gossip was the most popular topic suggestion.

Not one person I talked to mentioned Iran, the peace summit with Israel and the Palestinian authority, the multiple outbreaks of salmonella infected foods, or the asteroid that threatens to impact with Earth in 2036 (it is true people).

No, I got suggestions regarding Anna Nicole Smith, Britney Spears, and Brad Pitt. Is this what our society has come to? Well, apparently the answer to that question is yes, because as looking at the “Most Popular” news articles on Google, I find



*This is not Right-Said Fred. I know, I was confused too. (Image courtesy of <http://www.playfuls.com/fun/gimages/brubld18022.jpg>)*

that 6 out of the top 10 stories are about Sports or Hollywood. What is it about Hollywood celebrities that so enthralls our culture? Is it the flashiness and glamour of their lifestyle that makes them seem more important than global politics? Is it that they make more money in one year than most families will make in a lifetime for pretending to be other people?



*George rivals his own argument by appearing here with fan favorite and artiste extrodinaire Jason Levasseur.*

Here I am complaining about this phenomenon, but at the same time, I am fueling it. Earlier in this article I wrote about various things that have happened recently in Hollywood. Now, unfortunately, I think this article will spawn more conversations about them than about the truly important events in our world. People, please, be alert to your Earth, for all of us.

I will just leave you with this question: Do you know what brand of peanut butter has been recalled because of salmonella? If not, you may want to start looking at news stories that are a little more important than “Which celebrity just had a breakdown/breakup/break...something”.

Observer

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# Teresa’s Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



In its latest album, Of Montreal finally answers the age-old question, “What would it look like if the Spanish Inquisition was led entirely by livestock?” (Photo courtesy of [http://www.opticalatlas.com/images/satanic\\_remix.JPG](http://www.opticalatlas.com/images/satanic_remix.JPG))

## Of Montreal Release Remix of Album, Proves Laziness Trumps Creativity

Before the release of their latest album, *Hissing Fauna are you the Destroyer?* Of Montreal decided to re-release select songs from *Sunlandic Twins* and *Satanic Panic in the Attic*. This, however, isn’t merely a reissue, but rather a remix taken on by various artists. It almost seems like a novel idea. It is practically a natural progression for Of Montreal because they are known for their hyper infectious indie-pop. Their sound alone is practically the epitome of music that makes you want to get up and dance. Unfortunately, the remixes deter one from that idea and it becomes painfully apparent someone took a wrong turn.

*Satanic Twins* as a whole is a bit of a minor disappointment in comparison to some of their other work. While some of the remixes remain strong, others fall flat. Instead of staying fresh, upbeat and playful, the approach veers too far away from the things that made them good songs to begin with. For instance, in “I Was Never Young,” the beginning starts off playful with the plucking of strings, but later segues into headman Kevin Barnes sounding dazed as he sings the verses. He makes it

sound too spacey. By two minutes and thirty five seconds into it, all the listener hears is the phrase “I was never young” repeated for the duration of the song. Not exactly one of the finer moments on the album.

There are a few positive moments on the album, such as “The Party’s Crashing Us Now.” The song proves to be a winner when it starts off with a hypnotic electronic 1980s sound. It stays with the fun attitude of the original. While I’m not a fan of the rave dance club sound, the remixes on this song give it an extra little boost of fun. Looking at the album as a whole, this pattern seems to follow throughout. The songs that are of a high quality remain true to their origins while adding a bit of extra spice.

The album as a whole isn’t a complete flop, but I really wouldn’t swear by it. Perhaps Of Montreal is just so good at their craft of creating this type of music that any other tweaking just isn’t good enough for headman Kevin Barnes’ genius. Or, maybe, the artists doing the remixing aren’t as good as they think.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:  
Originality: 9  
Lyrics: 3  
Music: 4  
Cover Art: 5  
Total: 5.25/10

# The Departed Kills the Competition, Makes it Look Like an Accident

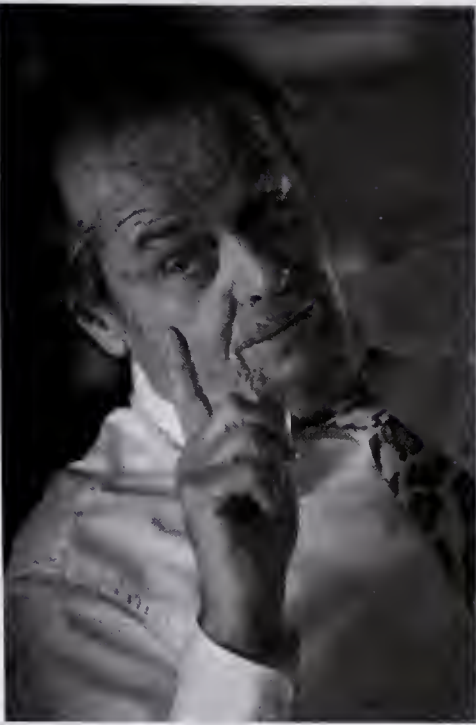
By Gabriele Nichols, Staff Writer

*The Departed* starts like a stereotypical Scorsese movie. The Rolling Stones’ “Gimme Shelter” (already used in *Goodfellas*) kicks off the soundtrack. A major criminal gives an impressive monologue about his life and times. The narrative starts with a flashback to earlier times.

Then something strange happens. The action switches to modern day, the narration stops, and the celtic punk of the Dropkick Murphys kicks in over the movie’s title. This may be a Scorsese film, but it’s a new beast, a great Scorsese film not obsessed with the past but vitally connected to the modern world.

The story, adapted from Japanese film series *Infernal Affairs*, follows two rookie members of the state police. One is the handpicked spy of slightly mad criminal kingpin Frank Costello. The other is selected by his department to become a mole the opposite way, getting as close as possible to Costello himself. Eventually both discover the existence of the other, and an intense, desperate search for each other’s identity begins.

The story is engrossing and twisting, but rarely confusing. The audience always knows (almost) all of the secrets, the tension comes from watching the two sides deal with and hide their duel identities. Making the film especially unique, however, is the effective setting of the film deep



Minutes before the cameras start rolling, Jack Nicholson motions toward the imaginary man who lives in his ceiling. (Photo courtesy of <http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/j/ap/nyet35702021659.widec.jpg>)

within South Boston, even managing to elicit realistic accents and culture. The movie also uses its modern setting to full effect, with cell phones and even the Patriot Act becoming vital plot points.

Scorsese continues his amazing ability to attract awe-inspiring casts, with a laundry list of great names. Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon play the “rats” within the mob and police department with particular skill, shedding their last vestiges of pretty boy while playing damaged, confused, and sometimes wretched individuals. Playing the aforementioned kingpin Costello, Jack Nicholson predictably steals every one of his scenes, but also manages to

never overtake the movie. He plays his character as a devil without morals nearing the end of an evil life, and missing some of his sanity because of it. It’s a performance both hilarious and terrifying, often both at once.

Nominated for a Best Picture Oscar, *The Departed* may finally be Scorsese’s time to win. He has created a bleak, engrossing film that manages to maintain a sense of humor through it all. Some critics claim that he has returned to form, and thus found what he does best. In reality, Scorsese has taken what he does best, discarded some of the tiring obsessions, added a modern outlook, and created a new potential classic.

5 out of 5

## Animorphs: When Animals and Aliens Collide

By Elizabeth Bessette, Staff Writer

So here we are again, two weeks later and me for want of a book to review. Don’t get me wrong, I have read enough books to do reviews till I graduate and then some. I just always have trouble narrowing it down to one book. So why not review a whole bunch of books? Well, mainly a series called *Animorphs*. The way I see it, there is enough of a nerd fan base for these books on campus that someone might actually read my article. K. A. Applegate has written quite a few books for this series. Well, quite a few is an understatement since there are like a million of them, but I will concentrate on the first book.

The first book is called *The Invasion*. It begins with Jake, one of the main characters, telling the reader that he can’t give his full name. Before the reader can start thinking that he’s massively paranoid, he launches into the story of how he and his friends made the somewhat ill-advised decision to cut through an



Finally, there’s irrefutable evidence of what everybody already knew: Barbaro was put down because he ate the souls of black people. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.davidmattingly.com/Media/No\\_MATT\\_numbers/Anim14lg.JPG](http://www.davidmattingly.com/Media/No_MATT_numbers/Anim14lg.JPG))

abandoned construction site on their way home from the mall. The five friends – Cassie, Jake, Marco, Rachel, and Tobias – stumble across a crashed space ship. Yes, a space ship, and inside is an injured and dying alien called an Andalite. He tells the kids that there is an unseen

alien threat that has been on earth for quite some time called the Yeerks. These slug-like alien parasites take over people’s brains and control them, so it should come as no surprise to you that those people are called Controllers and that they want to take over the world.

The dying Andalite, who wisely accepts the fact that he is about to kick it, knows he has to give the friends some power to protect themselves. He gives them the power to change into any animal they touch, and the *Animorphs* are born.

As good reluctant super heroes usually do, the five friends have some trouble coming to terms with their new identities. Since the book is about them however,

they do come to terms and go out to kick some Yeerk butt and save the world. Or should I say start saving the world, because over the next 65 books, they have triumphs and failures enough to fill the pages of this extensive series and still keep you coming back for more.



## Joy Awaits College Graduates in the Real World

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

Like most seniors, over half of my post-college plans depend on the acquisition of a winning lottery ticket or a superpower, preferably one that lets me shoot pinecones from my eyebrows. Surprisingly, this approach might not lead to the wild success I anticipated in the real world. Unlike the realm of the liberal arts college, which is founded upon the principles of humanism, activism, and botulism, the real world relies upon more tangible values, like job experience, networking skills, and botulism. Really, that last one is pretty universal. The only consolation I have from my long and fruitless collegiate career is that I'm hardly alone in my lack of preparation for the job market. For everyone who finds themselves on the cusp of graduation, here's what to expect in the real world.

The first reality you need to prepare yourself for is the total absence of fun. If you smile in the real world, a bureaucrat is required by law to shoot a puppy. If you don't believe me, just look it up. The policy is listed somewhere below the statute that requires you to become a vegetarian and drive a hybrid. Being an adult means always feeling guilty for killing something, regardless of if that killing comes in the form of environmental pollution or the puppy genocide you caused with your naturally cheerful disposition. Remember, it's always sunny somewhere, and that somewhere is most likely covered in blood and puppy chunks.

A second reality you need to prepare yourself for is soul-crushing poverty. Being repeatedly denied in one's attempts to achieve gainful employment is considered a vocation in some parts of the world. You happen to live in one of them. The best you can hope for is to become part of the system by ruining the career aspirations of those around you. Agree to proofread a friend's résumé. Then, in the section for hobbies and other interests, slyly slip in the phrase "serial rapist" or "twentieth-hijacker." Then break his knee caps. For liability purposes, employers are only allowed to hire terrorists who have two working legs. Just be aware that your friends are planning to do the same thing to you – if they haven't done it already. Check your knee caps and your status on the federal no-fly list just to be sure.

Unfortunately, the real world doesn't reward idleness, so you'll need to find a way to fill your many, many months of repeated employment rejections. It's a good idea to be able to claim you've achieved something in your post-college years besides significant weight gain and a working knowledge of the language of the ants. Again, that's



Did you just smile at this picture? If so, both of these puppies are already dead. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.bananabeltboats.com/images/puppies/More%20Puppies.jpg>)

not the type of story that will impress someone from the real world, which exists for the sole purpose of crushing your hopes, dreams, and charming anecdotes about breakthroughs in human-ant communication. Instead, fill the gaps in your résumé with lies about charitable activities you could have been doing instead of spending forty hours a week failing at job interviews. Two options that come to mind are building homes for the underprivileged and feeding vagrants to bears. Remember, the grander the lie, the better your

bottom of the deep end. Besides, if you hold your breath long enough, all of the water will pretty much evaporate. The real-world dress code for those of the female persuasion is somewhat less fatal. Women are expected to wear comfortable shoes at all times. That way they'll have excellent lower lumbar support for all the cupcake-baking and childbearing they'll be doing every day for the rest of their lives. That might not be the life you envisioned for yourself, but it doesn't matter; the world needs lots of babies to replace all of the



Hoth is a fictional world, but like the real one, it's cold, hostile, and filled with dead tauntauns. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.obh.snafu.de/~madley/starwars/Hoth/battle\\_hoth.jpg](http://www.obh.snafu.de/~madley/starwars/Hoth/battle_hoth.jpg))

chances of winning the Nobel Peace Prize for eliminating homelessness. The smaller the lie, the better your chances of winning a swift kick to the balls for being too much of a coward to defraud a prestigious international organization just to gain access to the open bar afterwards.

In the real world, unemployment benefits run out after five years, so at that point you'll either find a job or join the vagrants in the bear pit. The bears won't care how you dress, but your place of employment will. Men in the real world are expected to wear a shirt and tie at all times, even while sleeping in bed or swimming in a pool. It sends the message that you're professional, but not quite professional enough to change your clothes because of something as trivial as getting your tie lodged in that grate at the

professionals who get their ties stuck in pool grates.

Child rearing is another unavoidable fact of life in the real world. Even now, your mom and dad are bursting with joy at the thought that you will soon have a son or daughter of your own to make you as miserable as you made your parents. Whatever you do, don't get clever and try to avoid offspring by not having sex. Mary tried that and look what happened to her. In the aftermath of the reproductive process, be sure to beat your children regularly. It won't teach them a thing about discipline, but it will help keep your skills sharp for beating your wife. Besides, you'll never become a champion boxer by not punching your perpetually pregnant spouse.

Don't expect your life to get any better when you leave your house to go to work. The real world is a place of arcane office

rituals dating back to the dawn of man. There was a time when gaining the respect of your peers required you to kill a lion with your bare hands. In today's civilized office environment, all it takes to gain respect is a cursory understanding of sporting events and the ability to withstand scalding hot coffee applied directly to your testicles. What started out as a bet gone too far is now the standardized test for awarding promotions in most corporate settings. And no, you can't kill a lion instead. You need the money from the testicle-burn promotion to cover the cost of

your wife's medical bills and all of the boxing gloves you keep wearing out on her. I'd recommend just using your bare fists, but it's a bad idea to sacrifice the soft, girlish hands for which men in the real world are so admired.

Truth be told, the disheartening grind of the forty-hour-work week will entirely eclipse domestic abuse, puppy shootings, and other occasional bright spots in your life. It might sound like a horrible existence, but it's far better than the alternative of going to graduate school. The best way to describe education beyond the bachelor's degree is as a sort of living death where you get both the crippling financial burdens of the real world and the crippling academic burdens of the college one. As an added bonus, all of your friends will move on with their lives, leaving you to toil away in your own personal hell of cigarettes, coffee, and gonorrhea. Sexually transmitted diseases are to graduate students like bears are to honey. Next time you should probably read that admissions brochure more carefully. The same goes for the place you decide to rent, which, if you're like most graduate students, will be an unheated shanty in the Yukon you'll share with a family of cougars. It'll be one heck of a commute from there to your classes in eastern Pennsylvania, but at least it will save you fifty bucks a month in rent. On the plus side, you won't have to wear a tie – at least not until you graduate again.

Contrary to what everyone else will tell you, life pretty much ends after you earn your undergraduate degree. No matter where you go or what you do, all that awaits you are wild animal attacks, rigid dress codes, and pile upon pile of dead puppies. For those hoping to avoid this fate, there are few options. Failing your senior year isn't such a bad idea. Neither is sending a letter of warning to your local animal shelter.



## Too Much 24

By Roger Spitler, Staff Writer



(<http://nolovelust.com/my/uploads/24.jpg>)

As my friend Blue so eloquently put it, Fox's hit show 24 is about "Jack Bauer stopping people from blowing things up." Obviously there is more to it than that but not a whole lot. Sometimes Jack saves people, sometimes he stops bombs, and sometimes he rescues his family. No matter what happens, two things are sure to appear in each season of 24: a lot of stuff is going to blow up, and Jack will always learn about a crisis and stop it in twenty-four hours.

The series 24 is entering its sixth season and is one of Fox's top shows. Each season consists of a twenty-four hour period of time in which Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland) must save the world by preventing some kind of attack or crisis. The cool thing about 24 is each episode is a blocked hour of time. So there are twenty-four episodes to a season and the show is in "real time." There are no gaps between events. While the premise is exciting and interesting, it's also a little unrealistic that Jack Bauer, one man, does so much and nearly dies every hour of the season. Eventually, one of these explosions should put him in the hospital where he cannot get up for at least a day, rather than laying twenty minutes, performing some feat of strength, and then saving the day all over again.

For the television viewer that loves to watch things blow up, this is definitely your show. The plot is so busy killing terrorists, saving the world, and exploding things that it does not have time for the type of drama that television is so renowned for these days. Jack Bauer is not falling in love with every heroine that passes his way or some evil vixen with looks that kill. Do not get me wrong – the show is full of twists and turns that give a different kind of drama. There is a real plot and sense that the writers of the show had more in mind than blowing up cars and firing guns for twenty-four hours.

Unfortunately, 24 is no longer one of my favorite shows. I can only watch explosions, death, and lots of firepower so many times before I get bored. That is just who I am. At heart, I am a fan of *House* (Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. on FOX) and its sarcastic, comedic, dramatic style. I need something that will make me laugh, and you can only laugh at terrorists being killed so many times before it gets old. I will give 24 (Monday nights at 8 p.m. on FOX) a 2.5 jellies out of five but only on principle, though it's jolly good.



# Men's Hoops Ready To Roll Into March

By Noah Douglas, Staff Writer

Last year's performance has cast a large shadow over this years men's basketball team. The expectations of the team to be as great as they were last year were there, but seasons like that only come every so often. The men's team has responded to the challenge, and they have a shot to repeat as conference champs. That in itself is an accomplishment, because at the beginning of the year, the Pumas were ranked as the worst team in the conference.

At home the Pumas have been taking care of business, relying on the crowd and familiarity of their environment to defeat opponents. The biggest wins at home were against two nationally ranked opponents, which were Quincy University and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Followed by the sweeping of the next two home games against Lewis University and Wisconsin-Parkside, the success at home continued. The road games are where the Pumas are having some struggles. Hostile environments are tough to perform in, but the team has focused on preparing to take down the opponents how they do in the Richard F. Scharf Fieldhouse.

A major focus of the team has been rebounding and defense. Everyday in practice all the drills



Senior guard Matt Comparato (5) goes for the three against Quincy. Comparato has really shined this year as a senior leader and a stiffener of opposing defenses. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

and different scenarios the team is put through pertain to those two things. Offensively the Pumas have thrived with Ronald Coleman, Devin Thomas and Brandon Mayse leading the team in scoring. But lately the biggest strides have been made on the defensive end.

"Lately we have defended better than we ever have in my experience here," Coach Dave Burkett stated after a reflecting back on the past few home victories.

And the progress in defense has continued and finishing out the season strong is a goal of the team.

performance of the team rides heavily on the outcome of the next few games. Most teams would feel an enormous amount of pressure and become nervous and brittle under these circumstances, but the Pumas look to stay cool and overcome the obstacles and opponents that come their way. The Pumas final home games are tonight and Saturday against Northern Kentucky and Bellarmine, respectively. Tonight's matchup tips off at 7:30 and Saturday's contest is 3:00 PM.



Junior forwards Devin Thomas (20) and Ronald Coleman (33) block a pesky Greyhound from getting the dunk. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).



The NCAA Division II Tournament begins March 10. (Photo by NCAAsports.com).

## Puma Track And Field Gears For Indoor Championship

By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director

The Saint Joseph's College men's and women's track and field teams tuned up for the upcoming Great Lakes Valley Conference Indoor Championships by participating in the DePauw University Indoor Invitational on Saturday.

The SJC men's team placed eighth out of 21 teams, scoring 42 points for the day. Missouri Baptist University took first place overall with 96 points.

The headlining performance for the Pumas came from Kyle Lawson (Jr., Indianapolis, IN/ Univ. of Indianapolis), who placed third overall with a throw of 59' 10 1/4", which not only improved this provisional qualifying mark for the Division II Indoor National Championships, but shattered the previous SJC record of 58' 3", held by current SJC assistant coach Joe Koczan since 2001.

SJC had a trio of second-place finishes, two of which came from relay teams. Grant Dean (Jr., Hillsboro, OR), Donaté Morgan (So., Chicago, IL/Mt. Carmel), Jeremiah Tworek (Fr., Trafalgar, IN/Indian Creek), and Lonnie Hurst (Sr., Detroit, MI/Univ. of Illinois) turned in a time of 1:32.62 in the 4x200-meter relay, while Matt Leonardo (Jr., Chicago, IL/St. Laurence), Joel Jaeger (Fr., Marseilles, IL/Ottawa), Jay Skibbens (Fr., Bloomington, IL), and Val Ploetz (RFr., Cedar Lake, IN/Hanover Central) were timed in 11:02.58 in the distance medley relay. Dean also placed second in the long jump (22'9 3/4").

The Lady Pumas, meanwhile, totaled 44 points to place sixth out of 20 teams. The University of Indianapolis took the team trophy with 140 points. Lydia Thompson (So., Frankfort, IN) posted the two highest finishes for SJC, winning the triple jump (37'5 3/4") and placing third in the long jump (17'0 1/2"). Fourth-place finishes came from Erin Salinas (Sr., Hampshire, IL) in the 20-pound weight throw (47'2 1/2") and the 4x200 relay team of Natasha Kinsey (Jr., Elkhart, IN/Memorial), Allison Chappell (Sr., Lemont, IL), Mardee Hresil (Jr., Oak Park, IL/Queen of Peace), and Kathleen Sherburne (Sr., Fort Wayne, IN/Bishop Dwenger), which finished in 1:48.54.



The Pumas look to overcome SIUE, Lewis, and Indianapolis to capture their first title in eight years. (Photo by GLVCsports.com).

## Why Running IS A Sport

By Andrew Costello, Sports Writer

"Run Forest, Run!" I hate that phrase. I cannot tell you how many times I have run down country roads and metropolitan areas and have been heckled with such a phrase. It just makes me angry. I mean, when someone says that, don't you think that they could think of something more creative and intelligent to say, because, quite frankly, that phrase is probably more over-cited Joe Pesci's "Shinebox" tirade from *Goodfellas*. Whenever I hear someone say that, I think to myself, "Wow, what a freakin' idiot!" Maybe that's the reason why there's so much obesity in America. No one wants to run.

Such remarks from bystanders makes me realize one thing: that some people in this country actually venture to think that running is not a sport. It's not a sport because you don't score a goal, nab a touchdown, or hit that game-winning jumper to clinch that invitation to the Big Dance. All you do is proceed in forward motion off into the sunset and make yourself susceptible to belligerent drivers and other hecklers.

Well, that's garbage. How could anyone possible imagine that certain running disciplines

(i.e. Cross Country, Track) are not sports? I mean, think about it. In every sport, you need to run. In football, you need to sprint (an accelerated form of running) down the field to the endzone after you grab the reception or take the handoff from the quarterback. In basketball, you trek down the court hoping to get your shot in before the buzzer. In baseball and softball, you need to *run* the bases to score a *run*. No matter which way you look at it, running is the basis off all other sports; it's a fundamental element that, if removed, wouldn't make anything exciting. That may sound shocking, but it's true. You experience pain and suffering in sports like Track and Cross Country. The fatigue, agony, and joy are all there. In football, linemen and defensive backs beat the crap out of you; in cross country, you beat the crap out of yourself. Most runners inevitably find themselves asking, "Why am I doing this?" The answer: No pain, no gain. I'm not saying in any way that running is more important or more difficult than football, basketball, or baseball, because that would stupid of me. But I am saying that those who run

## IM Basketball Quite A Show

By Jennifer Hensley, Staff writer

The crowd goes hush as the minutes are ticking down. One point down, all they had to do was get it up and into the hoop and make the point to win. Cameras pointed everywhere, people standing and holding hands because this was it. This was it.

Ok, so it was overdone just a little, but that's how it felt at IM basketball this year and, well...every year. Basketball started before Christmas, a time labeled "pre-season." After all, one must get into shape to kick some butt, right? Regular season games started upon return from break. The championship games for both the Competitive Division and the Toilet Bowl Rec Leagues were held on February 8th. The fieldhouse was the perfect host for such an event.

This year, basketball drew in around 155 student members. Moreover, you cannot forget about the lonely five members of the faculty/alumni who joined in. They were taking on the student body.

Basketball is normally the most popular event and has the largest turnout. It is nice to see such a turn out for one sport, but the IM staff would love to see

that kind of turn out for all the other sports.

Right now, there is talk about having a Gus Macker style 3-on-3 basketball tournament in early April. So keep your eyes open for that.

Writing on other sports, dodge ball is the next sport up for the SJC community. Who does not want to do it after all? Those people from *Dodgeball* made it look fun and, of course, it gives everyone a chance to hit each other with balls. I know this reporter is game!

Well, keep your eyes open for the upcoming sports. It is always a great time and it gets you out of your room for a few hours at a time, maybe even more. In addition, it gets you out with your fellow students. So have fun, be safe, and go play dodge ball now!



IM Bball was a success. Next up: Dodgeball. (Image by <http://www.morris.umn.edu/recreation/Images/Sports%20pics/dodgeball.JPG> GLVCsports.com).



## Baseball Starts Season With Split In Alabama



The Observers' own Chase Sonen has started off the season with a 3.85 ERA, second on the team. Watch out for the fastball. (Photo by Sports Information).

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer

Most teams starting the season against the number four team in the nation end up coming back with their tail between their legs. The Saint Joseph's College baseball team came back wondering how they did not pull off a three game sweep.

The Pumas started in the right direction Saturday afternoon as they overcame an early 3-0 deficit and turned it into an 8-6 victory. Mark Lowry (Sr., Logansport, IN) struck out seven batters in five innings and held the potent Montevallo offense in check for five innings before giving way to Ed Schlueter (Fr., Machesney Park, IL/Harlem) who picked up the win in his first college outing. Joe Panozzo (Sr., Lansing, IL/Joliet CC) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his first save. Leading the Pumas offensively was Matt Wille (Jr., Crystal Lake, IL/McHenry CC) who went 4-5 with two doubles and three RBI's in his Pumas debut. Kevin Diete (Sr., Countryside, IL/Lyons Township) went 4-4 at the plate with three runs scored and two doubles. Ryan Murray (Jr., Downers Grove, IL/North) also played a big role for the Pumas going 3-5 with two key RBI's.

The second game still has some players shaking their heads



First baseman Kevin Diete anticipates a stolen base. Diete led the team in batting average last year. (Photo by Sports Information.)

after losing a 2-1 pitchers duel despite the fact that the wind was howling out all game. The Pumas fought all game long and had runners in scoring position the last two innings of the game but failed to drive them in. Chase Sonen (Jr., Cary, IL/ Cary-Grove) picked up the loss after allowing both runs in 4 2/3 innings while striking out four. Diete had the lone RBI in game two.

Game three against Montevallo turned out to be the most frustrating of the three as the Pumas dominated the first six innings and at one time held a 3-0 lead before falling apart in the 8<sup>th</sup> and losing 9-3. Matt Enderle (Sr., South Beloit, IL/Highland CC) took the no decision after pitching six innings, allowing two runs on three hits. Wille once again lead the Pumas offence going 3-3 with three more runs batted in.

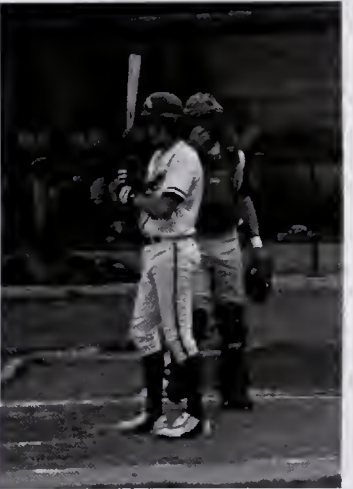
The Pumas won earlier in the day against unranked Miles College 10-4. This game was over after the first inning when the Pumas put a nine spot up on the board. Panazzo went 2-3 with two doubles and two RBI's to spark the Pumas offence, while Wille added another three RBI's and Ryan Payne (Jr., Bethalto, IL/ Rend Lake CC) blasted the Pumas first home run of the

season deep over the left field fence. Blaine Cravens (RJr., Buffalo, IL/Lincoln Land CC) pitched terrific in his three innings of work to pick up the win. Cravens allowed just one hit while striking out six in his first outing since arm surgery last season.

The Pumas left Alabama at 2-2 but more importantly they left with a sense that they could play with anyone in the country.



Junior outfielder Ryan Murray has been a consistent starter for the Pumas since his freshman year. (Photo by Sports Information.)



Shortstop Matt Reimer (above) looks to be a factor on this year's squad. He got three runs and four hits this weekend. (Photo by Sports Information).

## Puma Football Profile: Julius Taylor

By Andrew Costello, Sports Editor



A tight end on the football squad, Julius nabbed 27 receptions this year. Taylor's senior leadership helped the Pumas earn a 8-3 record and the outright GLFC title. (Photo by Sports Information)

1. Height: 6'1.....6'2 on paper
2. Blondes or Brunettes? I don't discriminate.
3. Favorite Beverage: Red Kool-aid.
4. Thoughts on Colts winning the Super Bowl: They deserved it.

5. Kevin Federline is..... Umm the dude that got with Britney Spears.
6. Can you dunk? Is the pope Catholic?
7. Favorite dessert: Lemon Meringue Pie
8. Role Model: My mother
9. Favorite Quote: "He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life" Muhammad Ali
10. Favorite Book: not too big on reading for fun but *The Da Vinci Code* was pretty good.
11. Favorite Movie: Umm probably *Training Day*.
12. If I was a chef I would make.... Lasagna.
13. Proudest moment as a Puma: Beating Tiffin in the conference championship.
14. Career plans? Looking for a job in the software development/engineering field.

## Women's Basketball Looks To Finish Season Off Strong

By Tyler Stouder, Staff Writer

The struggling Pumas try to end a stressed-out season on a winning note. With three games left, the 4-20 Lady Pumas will have two away games before ending up the season at home with games against Northern Kentucky on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and then Bellarmine on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse.

The Pumas, coming off last year's record of 14-13, were looking to continue the step up in the winning direction. However things did not go according to plan. After three tough

exhibitions loses, the Pumas entered the regular season looking to put that behind them. Yet, the Pumas did not see their first win until little over a month from the first exhibition game. SJC dropped its first 7 games, four by less then six points. The Pumas then went on a winning streak, getting 3 wins against Central State, Marian and Findlay.

Unfortunately that was not enough spark to get the Pumas on the winning page. The Pumas got their most recent win January 13



Freshman Molly Lauck (23) passes to guard Allison Hughes (24). (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

to Rockhurst 66-58. From that the Pumas have plunged nine more times. With that entire aside the Pumas have seen strong scoring performances from juniors Allison Hughes and Patience Meyer, with Hughes averaging 17.5 and Meyer with 11.5 points per game. The Pumas



Michelle Bova (25) and Julia LaBlanc (32) have been consistent forwards this season.. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

are lead on the boards by senior Michelle Bova who has pulled in close to 200 on the season with 175 averaging 7.6. The Pumas recently traveled to Wisconsin-Parkside this past Saturday, only to suffer a 75-50 defeat at the claws of the Rangers.



March Madness...

PLAYOFFS?!

Tim Hardaway is a loud-mouth!

Is Carlos Zambrano worth the money?

Think you know Sports? Write for the *Observer*.

Send articles to ack5427@saintjoe.edu

Nascar sanctions?



# Exiting the Ivory Tower

Popular Dissent  
with Danny Waclaw

I can't say that I'm a religious zealot, but I am not only a little sincere when I say, *Thank the Lord, it's almost here!*

That's right. In just one short week, the glory that is spring break is upon us, and I, along with two hundred others, soon will be leaving that wonderful ivory tower to take on the world.

For some, this may be primarily a sad event, as we all must part ways with great friends, ample free time, and family-supported health insurance. Indeed, the idea of independence is not so exciting when the only options at one's feet involve paper-pushing, daily-grind, will-it-ever-end-or-will-I-be-trapped-forever-in-this-cubicle work. (Yes, work—not school-work, but just work. Where's the romance in that?)

I can't say that I'm not worried about these things. Honestly, with less than five dollars in my checking account, I can certainly attest to a little fear when dealing with a sketchy future; however, let's consider the possibilities, if only for the sake of putting ourselves through meaningless torment that need not come just yet.

So many people are concerned about living a great life. This concern is perhaps the number-one



Voila: a preview of our future; however, don't underestimate the fun that can be had with reams of paper perfect for origami, airplanes, and kick-me signs.  
(Courtesy of <http://www.paperpusher.com>)

cause of anxiety in people our age; we keep wondering if we're doing anything wrong.

I'm here simply to say this: Who cares?

Honestly, money is not the end-all and be-all of life; marriage is certainly not the ultimate answer to happiness. It all lies in taking things step by step and making the most out of everything.

And this is where it gets interesting, particularly for us SJC students: we already know how to do it!

Think about it: the closest cultural events are an hour and a half away from here, and our only consolation is ridiculously cheap liquid refreshments at any place in town.

This is the perfect place to prepare for our first years of unadulterated, completely independent life. We know how to party and where; our party radar is almost to the point of overdevelopment. We've learned that a dollar found in a sofa is far more important than a dollar earned, and we treat quarters as though they were gold bullion. We even know how to exist on sub-par cuisine.

Yes, we are ready. Come on, big, bad world, and show us what you've got. We've got quite an arsenal with us, and so it's only a matter of time before these tools are called upon to fight the good fight and vanquish boredom and perpetual poverty-induced depression. Here's to us.

# On the Town!

## Così fan Tutte

· What? *Mozart's classic social comedy hits the stage at Chicago's world-class operahouse.*

· When? 7:30 PM CST on March 7, 10, and 16, 2007.

· Where? *The Lyric Opera in Chicago.*

· Tickets are available at [www.lyricopera.com](http://www.lyricopera.com).

## Of Montreal

· Who? *Infectious indie popsters bedazzle their audiences with plenty of dance music, drag, and glitter.*

· When? 6:30 PM CST on March 15, 2007.

· Where? *Metro in Chicago.*

· Tickets are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

# Overheard

*If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to [dwj5079@saintjoe.edu](mailto:dwj5079@saintjoe.edu) today to let your peers' voices be heard!*

I love small children, especially the sounds they make when I attempt to drown them in the bathtub.

You know what a mushroom stamp is, right? Well, it's kinda like that.

This tastes like piss and flies.

Marriage equals children. Think about it.

If eighty percent of success is showing up, then I guess I'm one-fifth of the way there!

Nothin' says lovin' like a snack cake.

## Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Feb. 23 - Mar. 1  
(219) 866-2222  
[fountainstonetheaters.com](http://fountainstonetheaters.com)

### Ghost Rider

Fri: 4:40, 6:50, 8:50 (PG-13)  
Sat: 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 8:50  
Sun: 2:30, 4:40, 6:50  
Mon-Th: 4:40, 6:50

### Bridge to Terabithia

Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 8:50 (PG)  
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:50  
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00  
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

### Norbit

Fri: 5:10, 7:10, 9:00 (PG-13)  
Sat: 2:50, 5:10, 7:10, 8:50  
Sun: 2:50, 5:10, 7:10  
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:10

### Music and Lyrics

Fri: 4:50, 6:40, 8:40 (PG-13)  
Sat: 2:40, 4:50, 6:40, 8:40  
Sun: 2:40, 4:50, 6:40  
Mon-Th: 4:50, 6:40

### Reno 911: Miami

Fri: 5:20, 7:20, 9:00 (R)  
Sat: 3:10, 5:20, 7:20, 9:00  
Sun: 3:10, 5:20, 7:20  
Mon-Tues: 5:20, 7:20

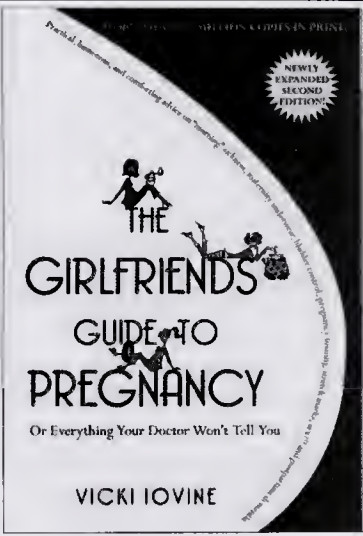
Coming Soon!

Wild Hogs

# Book Jacket of the Issue!

Pregnancy is fun again—or at least fashionably appropriate—with the Carrie Bradshaw of pregnancy as your guide, author Vicki Iovine, in the latest edition of her 1999 classic book *The Girlfriends Guide to Pregnancy, or Everything Your Doctor Won't Tell You*. True, Ms. Iovine may have yet again omitted a crucial apostrophe in her book's title, but that does not lessen its sparkling wit and immediate impact on those to whom its words are written. Pick this book up and learn today about pregnancy-friendly designer threads, the latest in technological advances, and how to fight those wonderful Holly Golightly-esque "mean reds."

Photo and info courtesy of <http://www.amazon.com>



# Karma and the Cosmos

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo



## Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)

Your friends are all in an uproar over a stupid Puma rumor. Stay out of this drama, or you will end up being the one everyone blames. This is not the time to play Dr. Phil, so mind your own business.

## Aries (March 21-April 19)

Someone is a smitten kitten. Everyone can see the new smile on your face since you have started seeing you-know-who. Feel free to walk on clouds and enjoy this new phase of your life.

## Taurus (April 20-May 19)

Remember that person you call your best friend? When is the last time you spent some good quality time with him or her without yapping about your problems? Go shoot some hoops together or have a movie night for a change.

## Gemini (May 20-June 20)

It is time to drop the bottle and face your life. Spending every night with your good pals Jack, the Captain, and Jose is starting to catch up with you. Your new three amigos are not going to help you finish that Core paper.

## Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Someone has caught a case of spring fever. Take a break from all the annoyances in your life. Go for a joyride and crank up the tunes or do something for yourself for a change.

## Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)

So, your mommy and daddy miss you, and you know deep down inside you miss them, too. Take a break from campus and all the drama to go home for a weekend. You might get a little spoiled on your weekend getaway if you are lucky.

## Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)

Stop feeling sorry for yourself and join the rest of humanity. The world does not revolve around you. You have put yourself in this rut and now you must dig yourself out of it. No one wants to be around Mr. or Ms. Self-Absorbed.

## Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)

Stop letting everyone else take the credit for your hard work. You have been busting your bottom on your schoolwork. Stop letting "Joe Schmo" take the credit. Let your professors see who has the real brain power.

## Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Do not ignore that itchy feeling in your throat and all of that sneezing: you are getting sick. Get some sleep and some vitamin C. The parties and drama will still be there when you wake up.

## Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

Stop feeling like a beluga whale and hit the fitness center to release those endorphins! Remember the only person that thinks you are fat is the person looking back at you in the mirror.

## Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

You and your love monkey are facing some unnecessary tensions in your relationship. Be a lover and not a hater. Would you rather smooch, tickle, and cuddle or bicker, fight, and cry? The choice is yours.

## Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)

You are letting one tiny detail control your entire life. It is time to rise to the occasion and make a decision. Once you face the music, you will feel like a new person.